U.S. Beef Industry Statistics

- January 1, 2022 Cattle inventory: 91,901,600 -2.0% (USDA NASS)

- 2021 estimated economic impact: $72.874 billion in farm gate cash receipts (USDA NASS)

- 2017 Number of cow herds: 768,542 (2017 Census)
  - 30.125 million beef cows (January 1, 2022 -2.3%) (USDA NASS)
  - 9.375 million dairy cows (January 1, 2022 -0.7%) (USDA NASS)
  - 35.085 million head calf crop (2021 -1.2%) (USDA NASS)
  - 89 percent of cow herds have less than 100 cows (2017 Census)

- 2021 beef and beef variety exports: 1.440 million metric tons (3.174 billion pounds); $10.576 billion (USMEF)
  - Top export markets: Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong/China, Mexico, Canada

- Top 5 states for Cattle on Feed (January 1, 2022) (USDA NASS)
  1. Texas – 2,930,000 hd; +1.4%
  2. Nebraska – 2,820,000 hd; +4.4%
  3. Kansas – 2,610,000 hd; -1.9%
  4. Iowa – 1,170,000 hd; 0.0%
  5. Colorado – 1,160,000 hd; +1.8%

- 54 percent of the total value of U.S. sales of cattle and calves comes from the top 5 states with cattle on feed inventory (2021) (USDA NASS)
  1. Nebraska
  2. Texas
  3. Kansas
  4. Colorado
  5. Iowa

- Feedyard cost of gain: $0.78/lb. from 2015-2019; $0.77/lb. in 2020, $1.00/lb. in 2021 (ISU Estimated Livestock Returns-Finishing Yearling Steers)

- Average producer age: 57.4 beef cattle ranching and farming; 54.5 cattle feedlots (2017 Census)

- 2021: 33.184 million head of cattle harvested under USDA inspection; 27.485 billion pounds of commercial, federally inspected beef production. Average dressed weight 830 pounds. (USDA NASS)

USDA NASS - National Agricultural Statistics Service
USMEF – U.S. Meat Export Federation